GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5007
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2001
PRICE OF IMPORTED COTTON
GADDE RAMAMOHAN

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of imported cotton are cheaper than domestic cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the measures the Union Government are contemplating to get the International price at par with the Indian Cotton and save farmers from committing suicides due to losses incurred by cultivating cotton;

(d) the shortfall of domestic cotton expected for the cotton industry during the current season; and

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR)

(a) & (b) : During the current cotton season, mainly cotton of long staple length group was registered in the Office of Textile Commissioner for import with the price range of Rs.56.03 - Rs.68.96 per k.g., whereas, prices of equivalent Indian varieties range between Rs.53.40 - Rs.63.20 per k.g.

(c) : The Government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for different varieties of kapas (seed cotton) every year to protect the interests of the cotton growers. Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) to improve the productivity and quality of cotton thereby ensuring good quality of indigenous cotton to the industry and remunerative returns to the cotton growers.

(d) & (e) : For the current cotton season 2000-01 (Oct.-Sept.), the Cotton Advisory Board has estimated the total availability of cotton at 186.50 lakh bales (crop size of 146 lakh bales and carry over stock of 40.50 lakh bales) as against estimated consumption of 171 lakh bales. Apart from the launching of TMC to increase production/productivity, import of cotton is under OGL with 5% duty and the user mills are free to procure cotton of desired quality parameters to meet their requirements.